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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Hiroshi SHIBATA

Scrial No.: 09/846,991

Group Art Unit: 2441

Date Filed: May 1, 2001

Examiner: Kristie D. Shingles

For:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COMMUNICATIONS CAPABLE OF

AUTOMATICALLY SENDING Λ MAINTENANCE REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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